



## **Sheila Dixon**

*Mayor,  
Baltimore*

---

250 City Hall • Baltimore Maryland 21202  
410-396-3835 • Fax: 410-576-9425

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 5, 2007**

### **CONTACT:**

**Anthony McCarthy  
(410) 869-6079 (Cell)**

## **City Acts Quickly to Address Pool Concerns**

Baltimore, MD (July 5, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon announced an action plan to address operational issues at the popular Patterson Park pool. This action plan comes within three days of the Mayor receiving e-mails about the Aquatics Center from concerned citizens of the greater Patterson Park community.

After receiving the e-mails on Monday, July 2, 2007, Mayor Dixon immediately dispatched Deputy Mayor Andrew Frank to visit the pool and meet with Recreation and Parks Director Connie Brown and his staff to discuss the concerns.

“I was deeply troubled by the concerns the community has about the Center,” said Mayor Dixon. “Residents bring their children and families to enjoy the summer by the pool. It is essential that we provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.”

The following plan of action is being implemented:

- \* In-service training will be conducted on site each Sunday by Recreation and Parks Area Coordinator at problem sites like Patterson Park and by senior managers at others. Darryl Sutton, Aquatics Manager, will conduct end of day meetings with Area Coordinator and Staff at Patterson until further notice, to provide guidance to Managers and staff on scheduling, crowd control, capacity control, rule enforcement issues, responsibility of police officers assigned and equipment needs. All pool rules will be strictly enforced.

- \* Recreation and Parks has begun the process of recruiting additional experienced staff for the Patterson pool. In addition, adult staff may be redeployed from other swimming pools and recreation programs as needed. This will be done without compromising operations elsewhere.

- \* Recreation and Parks Bureau Chief Portia Harris will attend the Aquatics Managers' Meetings held each Friday to assure coordination, support and compliance at all swimming pool locations.

- \* The need will be reinforced for management to use the Daily Equipment and Facility Checklist to assure that equipment is functioning properly and all items needed are available/in good condition. A service request has been called in for repair of the water toy (rings) at the Patterson Park Pool.

\* Assure that the Operating Schedule and phone number are prominently displayed each location, placed on the Recreation and Parks website, forwarded to the City Hall Operator, 311 Call Center and the Recreation and Parks General Info receptionist's list.

\* Flyers have been created that provide details of the “Learn to Swim” program (dates/times/age groups/cost).

\* Signage is being created to inform the general public of the reasons for closure when necessary (ex., “Pool Closed as a result of thunder/lightning. We will reopen as soon as possible. Your patience is greatly appreciated”).

\* Photo Boards that displays photos of assigned Pool Managers have been ordered and photo sessions have been scheduled.

\* Landscaping deficiencies have been corrected at Patterson. Grounds checks will be conducted at all pools and necessary work done. Routine checks have been added to the Park Maintenance work schedule.

\* Portia Harris, met with Lt. Sabrina Tapp-Harper, School Police and a representative from the BCPSS COO's office, to discuss the expectations and responsiveness of assigned officers. Written reprimands will be issued accordingly.

\* Recreation and Parks staff will maximize opportunities for citizen involvement. Residents are encouraged to provide regular feedback and suggestion.

\* The City will explore the whether concessions revenue generated at the pool (ice cream truck) can be dedicated to the aquatics center or the Friends of Patterson Park for use on pool programs.

In the coming weeks, Mayor Dixon and her senior staff will make unannounced visits to the Patterson Park facility and other pools operated by the city to ensure the action plan is properly implemented.

“As the City moves forward, the lessons learned from this event will be applied at all municipal swimming pools,” said Mayor Dixon. “We can make our pools more family friendly, and get back to making wonderful summer memories for everyone.”

# # #

Please visit our website at [www.baltimorecity.gov](http://www.baltimorecity.gov)